

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATINGOF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable for votes on July 6th and a portion of July 7th, 2011, as I was attending the funeral services for Sgt. Matthew Gallagher, a constituent who was killed while serving this country in Iraq on June 26, 2011. Sgt. Gallagher would have turned 23 years old on July 5th, a mere day before we welcomed his body home to Cape Cod and two days before he was laid to rest.

While each fallen service member is a tragic loss for our country, it is their loved ones who have to live with this heartache every day. I hope that the families of our fallen warriors can find even the slightest measure of comfort in our nation's eternal gratitude for their loved one's service and sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MARC
GALLET DE SAINT AURIN**HON. TOM LATHAM**OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joseph Marc Gallet De Saint Aurin's formal induction into the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph's induction on June 30th begins his 47-month journey at the United States Naval Academy as he strives towards a career as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. The United States Naval Academy was established in 1845 with a mission to help midshipmen develop morally, mentally and physically. Obtaining an appointment to this academy is a highly competitive process and based on evidence of character, scholarship, leadership ability, physical aptitude, goals and motivation.

Joseph has embodied these traits over the course of his life. In high school Joseph managed to maintain a 4.0 cumulative grade point average while balancing his roles as a student athlete, school council member, part-time employee, and volunteer by serving more than 100 hours at his church, local hospital, and various service programs. Joseph was also a member of the National Honor Society and received numerous awards as both a swimmer and as a student, including being named a three-time All-American, three-time State Champion, in addition to graduating with honors as an AP Scholar. Before his appointment Joseph also attended Iowa State University for a year and continued his path of excellence by maintaining high academics as a member of Phi Gamma Delta and the United States Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps. Joseph has consistently strove to be the best he could be and I am confident that he will continue to demonstrate these qualities at the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph's commitment to a cause greater than himself speaks volumes of this young man and the potential that he holds. I commend his parents, Andre and Lisa,

for their outstanding work as parents, and for their shared sacrifice as Joseph leaves their home. It is truly an honor to represent such an exceptional family. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Joseph and his family, and I wish him the best of luck in his studies and future career.

NAVY'S NORTHWEST TRAINING
RANGE COMPLEX**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 8, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of an amendment that I had hoped to introduce during the debate of H.R. 2219, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2012. However, I have learned that this important amendment would have been subject to a point of order and not be made in order.

My amendment would bar any funds in H.R. 2219 for the purposes of expanded training activities in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC). Once the Navy receives a new letter of authorization from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), taking into account marine mammal "takes," my amendment would then allow the Navy to use funds from this bill to expand their training operations in the NWTRC.

The Northwest Training Range Complex is a region of extraordinary biological diversity. It covers over 120,000 square nautical miles, spanning from Washington's border with Canada to waters off of my district in Northern California.

The Navy has used the NWTRC for training for the past 60 years. However, in October 2010, the Navy was permitted to expand training in the NWTRC that among other things involves increased use of mid-frequency active sonar.

As a military veteran, I strongly believe that sailors must have the training and experience they need to defend our country. However, I also believe that the Federal Government should follow science-based measures that will protect marine ecosystems and wildlife when the military pursues this necessary training.

Unfortunately, the use of mid-frequency active sonar is known to negatively impact marine mammals, especially toothed whales. And, its impact on many other fish species is not known.

NOAA conducted a comprehensive review of measures currently available to prevent harm to marine mammals from the use of sonar. One of the main findings of this review was that the most effective way to minimize impacts on marine mammals would be to protect important habitat, and NOAA is now coordinating a working group specifically to identify these areas within the NWTRC, also known as "marine mammal hot spots."

I have worked aggressively with constituents in my district to raise these issues to the Navy; however our concerns were simply dismissed without being addressed. In fact, the Navy has not been willing to consider avoiding or even limiting their training activities in specific areas that have been known to be heavily

populated by marine mammals and other species and habitats, to reduce the impact of sonar training exercises on them.

That is why I wanted to introduce this amendment—to guarantee that these serious and scientifically valid concerns are actually considered and addressed before the Navy moves forward with their plans of expanding training activities in the NWTRC.

It is important to note that this amendment is not about stopping Navy training altogether, that some argue would negatively impact our national security and military readiness. Instead this amendment is about requiring the Navy to be more deliberate when moving forward to expand training range activities that would undoubtedly impact local marine habitat.

I am disappointed that this important amendment was going to be ruled out of order. However, I wanted to once again put on record my concerns about this expanded training and its impact on marine mammals and sensitive marine habitat. I will continue to work with stakeholder to address this important issue.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2219, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for Navy training activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex beyond the number enumerated in the "No Action Alternative" of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for the Northwest Training Range Complex until a letter of authorization issued pursuant to section 101(a)(5) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1371(a)(5)) and covering the second year of training activity under subpart M of part 218 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, expires or is superseded.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, like many Americans, I have been growing increasingly concerned about the ongoing war in Afghanistan. The war that was launched in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks was designed to destroy the capability of the al-Qaeda terrorists responsible for those attacks and root out the Taliban government that was harboring them. Over the years, the purpose and goals of this war have changed, and we are now engaged in a long-term effort to build up the capacity of the Afghan Government and its security forces, to improve the infrastructure and economy of the country, and to provide an improved standard of living for its people.

These are admirable goals, but after almost a decade of war where we've tragically lost